

In 1966, the family moved to Orange, California, where Rex entered his junior year at Orange High School. He took classes in agriculture, became active in the Future Farmers of America, and raised steers until graduation.

In 1972, Rex moved to Napa where the region was just starting to transform itself into one of the most respected and famous wine areas. Rex began his career by cleaning hillside land that was then planted with Cabernet Sauvignon. Sterling Vineyards acquired the land and kept him as their vineyard manager. From those humble beginnings, Rex evolved to be one of Napa's most experienced and sought after viticulturalists and hillside developers. During his ascent, he worked for well-known vineyards such as Stag's Leap, Domaine Chandon, Spring Mountain Vineyards and many others. Rex also took several courses about viticulture and enology at UC Davis.

In the 1990s, Rex started a business that designed and developed environmentally responsible hillside vineyards. One of his clients, T.J. Rodgers, eventually hired him full-time. According to Dr. Rodgers, his company had to court Rex for five years until he decided that he "was ready to focus on making the world's best Pinot Noir."

Rex and his wife of 37 years, Amy, raised their children, Alison and Michael, in Napa. After living in the wine country for 27 years, Amy and Rex headed for the coast and now live in El Granada. However, Rex did not leave the wine business behind; he is now developing the winery and vineyards for Clos de la Tech. He also has served as the board president of the San Mateo County Farm Bureau since 2009.

Mr. Speaker, the San Mateo County Farm Bureau is right to honor Rex Geitner as Farmer of the Year. His lifelong dedication to environmentally responsible farming and viticulture have both benefitted and delighted Californians and wine connoisseurs all over the world.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROGER GEIGER TO HIS FELLOW VETERANS

##### HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger Geiger of Torrington, Connecticut. Mr. Geiger is a veteran and this year's recipient of the American Veterans Post 24 member of the year award.

After serving his nation in the armed services, Mr. Geiger continues to serve his community as a member of AMVETS Post 24. Mr. Geiger and his wife Diane founded and continue to run Post 24's Heroes on Wheels program. This program takes in donations of electric wheelchairs and scooters for the benefit of Connecticut veterans. Many of these wheelchairs and scooters are received out of working order and Mr. Geiger takes it upon himself to repair and refurbish this equipment that is essential to ensuring the mobility of many elderly or disabled veterans. Once the repairs are completed, Mr. Geiger and his fellow Post 24 members deliver the electric wheelchairs and scooters to veterans in need.

Mr. Geiger's tireless work has resulted in hundreds of veterans in Connecticut and neighboring states being provided with chairs that have returned to them their freedom of mobility. It is for this reason, in addition to his service as the chapter chaplain and his general dedication to the chapter, that Roger Geiger was awarded the Post 24 member of the year award in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can all agree Roger Geiger deserves recognition for his outstanding service, both to his nation and to his fellow veterans. His efforts to provide his fellow veterans with the tools they need to maintain their mobility and independence are undoubtedly worthy of recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Roger Geiger for his service to our community of veterans.

#### RECOGNIZING MS. EILEEN BREEN FOR HER SERVICES IN THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, with health care in our nation at the forefront of many discussions, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor a notable health care provider, Ms. Eileen Breen. I find it befitting to acknowledge those who help improve the quality of health care in our country.

Ms. Breen moved from New York City, New York in 1991 to serve medically underserved populations in the Mississippi Delta. Ms. Breen has serviced Tallahatchie County, Mississippi as a Nurse Practitioner for over eighteen years. She has worked in various clinics throughout the county, including those in Glendora and Tutwiler Mississippi, two of Mississippi's most underserved communities. Ms. Breen is well known in the community for treating patients regardless of their access to health care insurance. She has been instrumental in bringing to the forefront awareness of crippling health issues affecting Mississippi and is a pillar in her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Eileen Breen for her commitment to improving health care throughout the Mississippi Delta.

#### HONORING LIEUTENANT GARY BOBER

##### HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Lieutenant Gary Bober of the Streamwood Fire Department on the occasion of his retirement. He recently concluded his loyal service of over 34 years to the community.

Lieutenant Bober began his firefighter career in West Dundee in 1976 as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter. In 1978, Lieutenant Bober was hired by the Streamwood Fire Department. His training included becoming an EMP/Paramedic

and Firefighter. On July 20, 1988, Gary was promoted to Lieutenant for the Streamwood Fire department.

Day in and day out, Lieutenant Bober worked with the men and women from the Streamwood Fire Department to protect the Village of Streamwood. As a reflection of his commitment, he earned several Illinois certifications, including Firefighter III, Fire Apparatus Engineer, HazMat Technician, Certified Instructor II, Hazmat Incident Command, and Certified Officer I. On February 28, 1999, he received the Disaster Service Medal for participating in 3 structural fires, and later that same year, he received the Meritorious Service Award for rescuing a victim from a residential structure fire. His leadership is reflected in his bravery and achievement.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and the long years of service and commitment that Lieutenant Bober has dedicated to the community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, I missed one recorded vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 49.

#### A TRIBUTE TO NORM PARKER

##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic career of the Iowa Hawkeye nation's legendary Defensive Coordinator, Norm Parker.

Norm came to Iowa City in 1999 with a new coaching staff faced with the daunting task of reestablishing the Iowa Hawkeyes as a powerhouse football program on the national stage. Coach Parker played a pivotal role in accomplishing this task in short order by consistently coaching the Hawkeye defense into one of the nation's best. Norm built the Hawkeye defense into one of the most consistently dominant defensive units in all of college football both statistically and physically.

Over the last 13 years, Coach Parker has coached 34 players, prior to this year's upcoming draft, that have gone on to play at the sport's highest level in the National Football League. At the University of Iowa, Norm's rushing defense finished among the nation's top ten on five separate occasions, in addition to three top-ten scoring defenses in the last four years.

Any fan of college football knows that Coach Parker held a commitment to his program that is unlike any other, and in 2010, despite his battle with serious medical issues, coached the Hawkeyes to a fifth-ranked national defense, sixth-ranked rushing defense, and seventh-ranked scoring defense before finishing the season as the Insight Bowl